

Remarks

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 3, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 3, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 10-12 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-9 and 13-25 have been canceled by Applicant without prejudice and claim 12 stands withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims and examination of the withdrawn claim are requested for reasons presented below.

Claim 10 is amended to be in independent form. No additional limitations have been added to claim 10. Support for the amendment may be found in original claim 1. This amendment is not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claim as amended is entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0075109 to *Arai* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,002 to *Hirose et al.* and EP 0290218 to *Mears et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Arai, *Hirose et al.*, and *Mears et al.* do not teach, show, or suggest a processing chamber comprising at least three biasing members adapted for biasing the at least three elements radially inward relative to the substrate support as asserted by the Examiner because *Mears et al.* shows a plurality of fingers F₁-F₁₄, but the fingers F₁-F₁₄ are collectively connected to a biasing member 41a. Each finger F₁-F₁₄ is not connected to its own biasing member 41a. The Examiner is respectfully directed to Figure 6 of *Mears et al.* Therefore, *Arai*, *Hirose et al.*, and *Mears et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a processing chamber comprising at least three biasing members adapted for biasing the at least three elements radially inward

relative to the substrate support, as recited in claim 10, and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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